

Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Newborn Screening Tests

Information for healthcare providers of infants born in Louisiana or whose parents reside in Louisiana

WHAT is the concern? Due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, newborn screening was disrupted for the entire state of Louisiana. The LA Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health (OPH) in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have assessed the extent of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the newborn screening program in LA. Hundreds of newborn children require newborn screening tests.

Babies who were born between August 15 - Sept 21, 2005 and were not screened, whose screening status is unknown, or were tested but have no test results available need to have screening tests performed.

WHAT TO DO?

PROVIDERS:

If you provide health care to an infant born in Louisiana between 8/15 - 9/21 or whose parents normally reside in Louisiana, newborn screening test results should be documented.

The Louisiana Office of Public Health is asking that providers report any newborn screening test result that is abnormal.

Abnormal results can be sent to the Louisiana Genetics Diseases Program along with a) the baby's name, b) date of birth, c) gender, d) hospital number, e) mother's name, and f) phone number to:

Email: Charles Myers - Charlie@dhh.la.gov
or

Fax this information to Mr. Charles Myers (504-838-5334)

PARENTS:

If your child was born between August 15 to Sept 21, 2005,
Call: 1 (800) 447-1985 to confirm whether a valid newborn screening specimen is on record.

For more information:

Contact: Charles Myers, Administrator, Genetic Diseases Program, Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, New Orleans, LA: Charlie@dhh.la.gov or for laboratory information, Dr. Arthur Hagar - ahagar@dhh.la.gov